The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method of classifying one or more images, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting an iconic representation of at least one image displayed on a graphical user interface;

moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image; and

determining an association between said at least one image and at least one predetermined metadata item representing said classification, in response to said iconic representation being positioned at said target position.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating an iconic representation of said metadata item; and

displaying said metadata representation on said graphical user interface.

3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one further iconic representation of at least one further image displayed on said graphical user interface;

moving said iconic representation to a position defined by said displayed metadata representation; and

creating an association between said further image and said at least one metadata item.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the iconic representations of the metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said hierarchical structure is updated based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said association between said at least one image and said at least one metadata item.

7. A method of classifying one or more images, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting an iconic representation of at least one image, displayed on a graphical user interface;

moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image;

creating an association between said at least one image and at least one metadata item, in response to said iconic representation being positioned at said target position; and

generating an iconic representation of said at least one metadata item representing said classification.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of displaying said metadata representation on said graphical user interface.

9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one further iconic representation of at least one further image, displayed on said graphical user interface;

moving said iconic representation to a position defined by said displayed metadata representation; and

creating an association between said further image and said at least one metadata item.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein the iconic representations of the metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said hierarchical structure is updated based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

12. A method of searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting an iconic representation of at least one metadata item displayed on a graphical user interface;

determining an association between said at least one metadata item and said at least one image; and

generating an iconic representation of said at least one image, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying said iconic representation of said at least one image on said graphical user interface.

14. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one further iconic representation of at least one further metadata item displayed on said graphical user interface;

determining an association between said at least one further metadata item and at least one further image; and

generating an iconic representation of said at least one further image for display on said graphical user interface.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the iconic representations of the metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said hierarchical structure is updated based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

17. A graphical user interface for representing classification relationships between one or more images and one or more metadata items, said graphical user interface comprising:

selection means for moving at least one iconic representation of at least one of said images displayed on said graphical user interface, to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image; and

at least one portion for displaying an iconic representation of a metadata item representing said classification, said metadata data item being generated and displayed in response to said at least one iconic representation being positioned at said target position.

18. A graphical user interface according to claim 17, further comprising:

a further selection means for selecting said iconic representation of said at least one metadata item displayed on a graphical user interface; and

at least one further portion for displaying at least said iconic representation of said at least one image in response to said selection of said iconic representation of said at least one metadata item.

19. A graphical user interface according to claim 18, wherein said further portion displays any further iconic representations of said one or more images, said further iconic representations being generated depending on determined associations between said one or more images and any other metadata items represented in said at least one portion.

20. A graphical user interface according to claim 18, wherein the iconic representations of the metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure.

21. A graphical user interface according to claim 20, wherein said hierarchical structure is updated based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

22. An apparatus for classifying one or more images, said apparatus comprising:

selection means for selecting an iconic representation of at least one image displayed on a graphical user interface and moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image; and

determining means for determining an association between said at least one image and at least one predetermined metadata item representing said classification, in response to said iconic representation being positioned at said target position.

23. An apparatus for classifying one or more images, said apparatus comprising:

selection means for selecting an iconic representation of at least one image, displayed on a graphical user interface and moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image;

creation means for creating an association between said at least one image and at least one metadata item, in response to said iconic representation being positioned at said target position; and

generation means for generating an iconic representation of said at least one metadata item representing said classification.

24. An apparatus for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said apparatus comprising:

selection means for selecting an iconic representation of at least one metadata item displayed on a graphical user interface;

determining means for determining an association between said at least one metadata item and said at least one image; and

generation means for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

25. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for classifying one or more images, said program comprising:

code for selecting an iconic representation of at least one image displayed on a graphical user interface;

code for moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image; and

code for determining an association between said at least one image and at least one predetermined metadata item representing said classification, in response to said iconic representation being positioned at said target position.

26. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for classifying one or more images, said program comprising:

code for selecting an iconic representation of at least one image, displayed on a graphical user interface;

code for moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image;

code for creating an association between said at least one image and at least one metadata item, in response to said iconic representation being positioned at said target position; and

code for generating an iconic representation of said at least one metadata item representing said classification.

27. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said program comprising:

code for selecting an iconic representation of at least one metadata item displayed on a graphical user interface;

code for determining an association between said at least one metadata item and said at least one image; and

code for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

28. A method of searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of iconic representations of metadata items displayed on a graphical user interface, said iconic representations being arranged according to a hierarchical structure;

generating a query based on said selection of said plurality of iconic representations;

determining at least one association between one or more metadata items represented by the selected iconic representations and said at least one image based on said query; and

generating an iconic representation of said at least one image, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

29. An apparatus for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said apparatus comprising:

selection means for selecting a plurality of iconic representations of metadata items displayed on a graphical user interface, said iconic representations being arranged according to a hierarchical structure;

query generation means for generating a query based on said selection of said plurality of iconic representations;

determining means for determining at least one association between one or more metadata items represented by the selected iconic representations and said at least one image based on said query; and

iconic generation means for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

30. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said program comprising:

code for selecting a plurality of iconic representations of metadata items displayed on a graphical user interface, said iconic representations being arranged according to a hierarchical structure;

code for generating a query based on said selection of said plurality of iconic representations;

code for determining at least one association between one or more metadata items represented by the selected iconic representations and said at least one image based on said query; and

code for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.